

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice against the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will generate a monopoly and will hurt consumers like me, including less choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

The merger will prohibit the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers will most definitely happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to withhold your support to this merger.